

Meeting Start time:

7:30 pm

Attendees:

Denise Soppas (chair)

Charlie Neiss

Chris Baglieri

Sylvia Walker

Pete Jones

Barbara Jones

Maureen Erwin

Alice Logie

Melissa Logan

Lois De Ritter

Kasey Neiss

Guenevere Zucker

Chalice lighting/Reading of the 8th principle

Principle read by Barbara, Charlie, and Sylvia

Introductions

Name, pronouns, reason for attending

As people are talking....Why did I choose to join this group?

“This time, I didn’t want to just -think- about it.”

“I realized that this process probably SHOULDN’T be comfortable. It should require some work.”

“As a chaplain, and in my career I’ve seen great discrepancies in racial and gender disparities, so in whatever time I have left I want to put my feet on the street and raise awareness.”

"I remember being an advocate for desegregating schools and marching. I also was the person who desegregated the Girl Scouts..."

"I feel that most of what we do is talk, and I wanted to be doing something that is actually taking action."

"If you live in the right neighborhood, you can go to whatever school you want, but the economic and racial divide in this country is -sick-! Schools are more segregated now than they have ever been"

"I'm not so sure that we need an eighth principle, but there is definitely work to be done."

"I think that the current administration has allowed the KKK and White Supremacists to come out more. I think that one thing is actually socializing, getting to know people."

"As an educator, I feel this is a good time for me, personally to dive into this work, and my students will benefit."

Video

Excerpt of Paula Cole Jones' video about 8th Principle covering history of anti-racism in the UUA and the move to add the 8th principle.

Activities and Resources

- CER has a monthly meeting for congregations looking to adopt 8th Principle
- Princeton UU has offered to mentor us in this process. Denise met with Sharon Copeland of Princeton UU
- Princeton UU is a good resource and has a good section on their website
- 28 congregations nationwide have adopted it
- What has FUSP done over time?
 - Anti-racism committee led by Carl and Pat
 - Trainings
 - Services
 - Sharing our space in Plainfield
 - Project hope
 - Not all efforts have been successful or without resistance

What have we been doing

- Dialogs on race
- Allies for Race Equality Caucus
- Faith in Action NJ - community organizing training
- Ally Nudge texts
- “Rigged” screening
- Formed this group, set up meeting
- Attended the CER 8th Principle Learning Community Monthly meeting
- Met with the Princeton UU 8th Principle/Anti-racism committee chair

Open discussion on moving forward

- Determine what we need to do in order to adopt and make a plan
- What does adoption mean?
- Present a service to congregation
 - Chris and Melissa will identify a date - mid November
 - Who will participate -
 - Charlie
 - Melissa
 - Chris
- Continue work identifying local groups we can partner with
- Continue acting/meeting and communicating with the board
- Bring past and current actions to congregation
 - Kasey’s project
 - Kim’s de-carceration group
- Acquire material for distribution to group and congregation
 - Video on vote suppression
 - Princeton’s website
- Continue to attend CER 8th Principle Learning Community Monthly meeting
- Identifying groups/trainings we are engaged in outside of the congregation
 - Track who is doing what
 - Report to board and congregation

Meeting End time:

9:35 pm